TREASURY APPROPRIATIONS/Ammunition Clips

SUBJECT: Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 1999 . . . S. 2312. Campbell motion to table the Feinstein amendment No. 3351.

ACTION: MOTION TO TABLE AGREED TO, 54-44

SYNOPSIS: As reported, S. 2312, the Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 1999, will provide \$29.924 billion in new budget authority (BA) for the Department of the Treasury, Postal Service, Executive Office of the President, and various independent agencies. This amount is \$4.598 billion more than provided in fiscal year (FY) 1998, and is \$3.095 billion more than requested. The large increase in funding is due to the addition of \$3.270 billion in contingent emergency funding to address the year 2000 (Y2K) computer date change conversion problem.

The Feinstein amendment would ban the importation of large capacity ammunition feeding devices. (The domestic production of large capacity feeding devices, defined as devices that can hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition, has been banned in the United States since 1994. The importation of such devices was also banned in 1994, except for devices that were manufactured before the date of the ban. The Feinstein amendment would remove that exception.)

During debate, Senator Campbell moved to table the amendment. A motion to table is not debatable; however, some debate precede the making of the motion. Generally, those favoring the motion to table opposed the amendment; those opposing the motion to table favored the amendment.

No arguments were expressed in favor of the motion to table.

Those opposing the motion to table contended:

In 1994 a ban was passed on 19 semiautomatic weapons that were commonly used to commit crimes. At the same time, a ban

(See other side) **NAYS (44)** NOT VOTING (2) **YEAS (54)** Republicans Republicans **Democrats** Republicans Democrats **Democrats** (49 or 91%) (5 or 11%) (5 or 9%) (39 or 89%) **(1) (1)** Helms-3AY Harkin-4AN Abraham Hutchison Baucus Chafee Akaka Kerrey Allard Inhofe Bingaman D'Amato Biden Kerry DeWine Ashcroft Kempthorne Boxer Kohl Breaux Bennett Kyl Hollings Jeffords Bryan Landrieu Bond Lott Leahy Lugar Bumpers Lautenberg Brownback Mack Byrd Levin McCain Cleland Burns Lieberman Campbell McConnell Conrad Mikulski Coats Murkowski Daschle Moseley-Braun Cochran Dodd Nickles Moynihan Collins Roberts Dorgan Murray Coverdell Roth Durbin Reed Craig Santorum Feingold Reid Domenici Sessions Feinstein Robb Enzi Shelby Ford Rockefeller Faircloth Smith, Bob Glenn Sarbanes **EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:** Smith, Gordon Torricelli Frist Graham 1—Official Business Gorton Snowe Inouye Wellstone 2-Necessarily Absent Gramm Specter Johnson Wyden 3-Illness Grams Stevens Kennedy Grassley Thomas 4—Other Gregg Thompson Hagel Thurmond SYMBOLS: Hatch Warner AY-Announced Yea Hutchinson AN-Announced Nay PY-Paired Yea PN-Paired Nay

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was passed on large capacity ammunition feeding devices. That ban allowed dealers to sell off their existing stocks of such devices. It also allowed them to continue importing large-capacity ammunition clips if they were manufactured before the effective date of the ban and if they had a bill of lading. That exception was to allow dealers to recover their expenses for clips they had already ordered. Four years later, we find that the exception is being abused. In the last 2 years 8.8 million of these high-capacity clips have been imported. The Feinstein amendment would close this loophole by eliminating the exception. We urge our colleagues to vote in favor of this amendment.